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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

IN CHARGE OF

EDNA L. FOLEY, R.N.

TEXAS.—The State health officer is required by law to call a conference of all county and city health officers once a year. When he called the last one, in April, 1920, Mrs. Ethel S. Parsons, Director of the Bureau of Child Hygiene and Public Health Nursing of the Texas State Board of Health and of the Public Health Nursing of the American Red Cross (Texas), called the state public health nurses together at the same time. The attendance included 40 nurses and 150 physicians. Common problems were very frankly discussed, a new feeling of friendliness and need of one another was established and late in the second day the doctors voted to include all the public health nurses of the State Department of Health and the American Red Cross, in the membership of their organization; Mrs. Parsons was made first vice-president. An organization of this sort cannot but advance the health program of Texas and it would not be a bad plan for other states to borrow the idea.

The Texas State Board of Health has adopted a copy of Standing Orders very much like those used by the Visiting Nursing Association of Chicago. Whenever a new state nurse is appointed, the State Health Officer sends these orders and the following "Don'ts for the Nurse" to the local health officer, asking his approval of their use by the nurse.

In fifty instances, forty-nine health officers approved of the orders, but the fiftieth said he believed the nurse should be given more leeway. The "Don'ts" are just as good for nurses in other states as for those in Texas, therefore they are copied as follows:

DON'T diagnose case; use "suspected" before name of disease.

DON'T catheterize without a doctor's order.

DON'T forget that you are the nurse, and not the doctor.

DON'T use gargle until after physician has seen throat.

DON'T send any patient (except on emergency) to the hospital without first consulting the physician on the case.

DON'T leave a note in patient's home asking for diagnosis or inquire over the telephone, if you have any reason to believe that physician will refuse a diagnosis. Explain three reasons for careful diagnosis: (1) To enable us to give as careful nursing care as is indicated; (2) To protect the nurse from the dangers of infection to others and to herself; (3) To enable us to show by carefully kept statistics the kind of cases under our care, and the approximate amount of nursing service required by the different types of case.

CONNECTICUT.—An attractive Health Center has just been opened in the City of New Haven, for free examination, consultation and

advice. Patients will be referred from it to their own physicians or to the Visiting Nurse Association. The Center will serve three city wards and is organized and supported by the Department of Health, the Visiting Nurse Association, the American Red Cross and the New Haven Medical Association. The coöperation of four such important agencies as these cannot fail to bear lasting and worth while results. Other cities may well take notice of this big step in advance taken by the New Haven health agencies.

OHIO.—The State Anti-Tuberculosis Association has recently changed its name to "The Ohio Public Health Association." It has a Department of Public Health Nursing, of which Hulda Cron, formerly with the Cleveland Visiting Nurse Association, is supervisor. The state is divided into five districts, each with its own supervisor. The Association has a library from which any nurse may borrow the most recent books on public health subjects. The public health nurses throughout the State of Ohio have always been famous for their warm coöperation with the State Department of Health and the State Anti-Tuberculosis Association, and every year this coöperation is growing more securely cemented.

MONTANA.—Grace Westerman, formerly with the Visiting Nurse Association of Chicago, is American Red Cross County Nurse with headquarters at Glasgow. In June she traveled a thousand miles in her motor and visited twenty-four schools. This coming year she has been asked to give the American Red Cross course in Home Nursing to the girls in the Glasgow high school.

ILLINOIS.—By the recent will of Mrs. John C. Black, the Visiting Nurse Association of Chicago was left \$250,000.00. The Children's Memorial Hospital was left a similar sum and in addition will receive the balance of the estate when all other bequests are paid. It is now estimated that this sum will approximate half a million.

The three nurses of Whiteside County held a weighing and measuring contest at the County Fair recently. In a little booth in Floral Hall, decorated with attractive posters on the care of infants, 82 babies were weighed, and in a rest tent outside, nearly 700 children were weighed and measured. The parents of the latter were particularly interested and a good many wanted to subscribe to the Red Cross then and there, for the tent was in charge of the Red Cross County nurses. Evangeline Mosher, the first Red Cross nurse in Whiteside County, has 62 schools, and half a county, under her supervision. Only five of these schools are in towns, but in all, the attendance is 5,000 children.

NEW YORK.—Matilda Johnson, formerly Superintendent of the Visiting Nurse Association of Cleveland, too well known to thousands

of nurses throughout the country to need further introduction, has been appointed Superintendent of Nursing of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, with headquarters in the New York office. Miss Johnson succeeds Eleanor Bridgeland, who was married last February to Frank Snowden Thomas, of New York City.

A Seamen's Service Center, directed by the United States Public Health Service in coöperation with the American Red Cross, has recently been opened at 21 Coentes Slip, New York City. Public Health nurses will be especially interested in this Center because a public health nurse is constantly on duty to advise or talk with the sailor boys and the Center was established under the direct supervision of Anne Doyle, Supervising Nurse with the United States Public Health Service. In the little slip that is given to all seamen, they are told what the Center means to them and also that they may see their physicians, who will send them, when necessary, to the proper hospital or clinic. They are further told that if they are ill in a hospital or boarding house and the Center is notified, a nurse will visit them to see that their affairs are taken care of during their illness and that arrangements for their convalescent care are made. Legal advice, library books, writing material and other comforts are provided for the men. The Center is open day and night, and seamen of all flags are entitled to its service without charge.

WISCONSIN.—The Visiting Nurse Association of Beloit, Mrs. Justine L. Thorpe, superintendent, opened a weekly nose and throat clinic in January and now every Wednesday afternoon is devoted to throat operations. The children are kept for several hours and are then taken home in the ambulance and an evening call is made on each one. An Infant Welfare conference with a weekly attendance of from fifteen to twenty babies, and a weekly Tuberculosis clinic, during which milk is served to waiting children, are two of the features of the work of this progressive little society. The headquarters of the Visiting Nurse Association are at 422 Republic Avenue. The record forms recommended by the National Organization for Public Health Nursing are used. The staff of the Association has grown to two nurses.

The next examination of the Louisiana Nurses Board of Examiners will be held in New Orleans and in Shreveport, December 13, 14 and 15. For further information apply to Dr. J. S. Herbert, Secretary, 1121 Maison Blanche, New Orleans.